

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03
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R 140910Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4186
INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA

UNCLAS TOKYO 18340

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, JA
SUBJECT: CURRENT DIET STRENGTH

1. AFTER ADJUSTMENTS FOLLOWING DECEMBER 5 LOWER HOUSE
GENERAL ELECTION, NEW DISTRIBUTION OF SEATS, CONTRASTED
WITH IMMEDIATE POST-ELECTION LINE-UP, IS AS FOLLOWS:

PARTY	POST-ELECTION PRESENT	
LDP	249	260
JSP	123	123
CGP	55	56
DSP	29	29
JCP	17	19
NLC	H 17	17
INDEPENDENTS	21	OHOKX 7
TOTALS	511	511

2. SINCE ELECTIONS, LDP HAS BEEN JOINED BY ELEVEN
CONSERVATIVE INDEPENDENTS: JOJI FUKUSHIMA, WATARU
HIRAIZUMI, HISAO HORINOUCI, HIROSHI INOUE, TOYOHICO
MIZUHIRA, MAMORU NAKAJIMA, KISHIRO NAKAMURA, MAMORU
NISHIDA, KENICHIRO OTSUBO, TAKASHI SATO, AND TORU UNO.
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ADDITIONS GIVE GOVERNING LDP SLIGHTLY MORE THAN

SIMPLE MAJORITY (256) BUT FALL SHORT OF 271 SEATS
NEEDED TO CONTROL ALL LOWER HOUSE COMMITTEES. INDEPENDENT
SHOZO KUSAKAWA JOINED CGP SINCE ELECTION. REFORMIST
LEAGUE MEMBERS MICHIO TANAKA AND JUNJI YASUDA HAVE
ASSOCIATED WITH JCP. OF VSEVEN REMAINING INDEPENDENTS,
FOUR ARE LINKED TO LDP: TOKUICHIRO TAMAZAWA
EXPECTED TO JOIN LDP, TOKUMA UTSUNOMIYA JUST LEFT
LDP, AND LOCKHEED INDICTEES TOMISABURO HASHIMOTO AND
KAKUEI TANAKA FORBIDDEN BY LDP RULES FROM JOINING
PARTY; TWO OTHER CONSERVATIVE INDEPENDENTS, KUNIO
HATOYAMA AND ICHIZO OHARA, ARE INCLINING TOWARDS NLC;
AND REMAINING INDEPENDENT, FORMER DSP DEPUTY SEC GEN
YOSHIKATA ASO, MAY BE SYMPATHETIC TO HIS OLD PARTY.

3. IN UPPER HOUSE BY-ELECTIONS IN NIIGATA AND
MIYAZAKI PREFECTURES DECEMBER 12, LDP MAN AND CONSERVA-
TIVE INDEPENDENT WERE ADDED TO DIET UPPER HOUSE. NEW
TOTALS IN THAT CHAMBER ARE: LDP 126, JSP 62, CGP 24,
JCP 20, DSP 10, NLC 1, NIIN CLUB 4, INDEPENDENTS 4, VACANT 1;
TOTAL 252. IN NIIGATA, JUICHIRO TSUKADA, 72, FORMER
PREFECTURAL GOVERNOR, WAS WINNING LDP CANDIDATE. HIS
TALLY OF OVER 500,000 VOTES -- SOME 150,000 MORE THAN
JSP RUNNER-UP -- EXCEEDS 470,000 VOTE PERFORMANCE OF
WINNING LDP CANDIDATE IN 1974 UPPER HOUSE CONTEST IN
NIIGATA. IN MIYAZAKI, CONSERVATIVE INDEPENDENT CHIKAO
SAKAMOTO, 65, POLLED 200,000 VOTES, BEATING LDP RUNNER-
UP BY 50,000 VOTES. IN 1974 UPPER HOUSE ELECTION, LDP WINNER
GARNERED 290,000 VOTES, BUT THERE WERE NO INDEPENDENTS IN RACE.

4. WITH THESE RESULTS, LDP UPPER HOUSE SEATS TOTAL
EXACTLY HALF OF 252-SEAT CHAMBER; THEREFORE, PARTY WILL
NEED HELP OF CONSERVATIVE INDEPENDENTS, AND/OR OTHER
OPPOSITION PARTIES TO PASS LEGISLATION.
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